

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 EUR-25 SCCT-02 OPR-02 CU-04 NIC-01

AID-20 PC-04 EB-11 AGR-20 SWF-02 IO-14 EA-11 SIL-01

LAB-06 OMB-01 COME-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-04 /228 W

----- 046261

R 241503Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8651

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

AMCONSUL ASMARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 4567

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT ECON ET

SUBJECT: IEG TAKES TOUGHER LINE ON DISTURBANCES

REFS: (A) ADDIS 4560 (NOTAL); (B) ADDIS 4424 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE EMPEROR'S AND PRIMIN'S EASTER WEEKEND CALLS FOR CALM, ORDER AND RETURN TO WORK, ADDIS AS WELL AS COUNTRYSIDE HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY CONTINUED EXPERIENCE DISTURBANCES, DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES. IT OUR IMPRESSION THAT BOTH CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SEMI-PARALYZED BY DISGRUNTLED CIVIL SERVANTS (SEE ASMARA 285). MINISTRIES AND SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES ONLY PARTIALLY FUNCTIONING AND MANY CONTINUE BE PLAGUED BY EMPLOYEE DEMANDS FOR REMOVAL SENIOR OFFICIALS, ETC. GOVERNMENT HAS NOW REACTED TO THIS SITUATION WITH TOUGH STATEMENT ISSUED LATE APRIL 23 PROMISING ENFORCE LAWS AGAINST UNLICENSED STRIKES AND

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DEMONSTRATIONS. ADDIS STUDENTS TOOK TO STREETS TODAY IN CHALLENGE

TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN MANY AREAS COUNTRY SIMILARLY HAMPERED AS DISTRICT OFFICIALS ABANDON THEIR POSTS IN THE FACE OF DEMANDS FOR THEIR REMOVAL. WE UNDERSTAND OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS IN MAKELLE HAVE VIRTUALLY CEASED FOLLOWING WEEKEND DEMONSTRATION OF ABOUT 6,000 PEOPLE DEMANDING REMOVAL OF OFFICIALS, EXCLUDING RAS MENGESHA BUT INCLUDING BISHOP OF TIGRE. MAKELLE SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED, AS TRUE IN MOST PARTS COUNTRY. GONDAR CONTINUES TENSE FOLLOWING EARLIER SHOOTOUT BETWEEN POLICE AND JUDICIAL OFFICIALS; REPORTEDLY, GOVGEN WILL BE REPLACED. THERE ALSO REPORTS THAT POLICE AND TERRITORIAL ARMY REMAIN AT ODDS IN TOWN NEAR GONDAR. IN DIRE DAWA RAILWAY STRIKE CONTINUES AND SOME UNION LEADERS REMAIN IMPRISONED. THERE WAS RECENT DEMONSTRATION IN BATI DEMANDING REMOVAL CERTAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WE UNDERSTAND INHABITANTS KEBRI MENGIST (SIDAMO) AND IN DEMBI DOLO (WOLEGA) HAVE DRIVEN OUT LOCAL OFFICIALS. FARMERS IN THE AWASSA AREA HAVE BEEN DEMONSTRATING FOR LAND REFORM. DESSIE RELATIVELY CALM, ALTHOUGH SCHOOL IS OUT AND THERE EXPECTATION OF BIG DEMONSTRATION TO MARK ANNIVERSARY OF LAST YEAR'S "MASSACRE" OF STUDENTS. ACCORDING TO WOLLO OFFICIAL IN CHARGE RELIEF, KEBEDE ANISA, DISRUPTION OF TRANSPORTATION AND STRIKES IN ASSAB HAS MEANT RELIEF GRAIN IS NOT MOVING TO DESSIE AND ITS SUPPLIES ALMOST EXHAUSTED. CONCERN BEING VOICED SOME (CHINESE, KENYAN) RELIEF GRAIN MAY BE SPOILING IN ASSAB AND IN OTHER STORAGE AREAS WHILE AWAITING ONWARD TRANSPORTATION. WE HEAR SCATTERED REPORTS OF TENSION AND TURBULENCE IN MANY TOWNS, FOR EXAMPLE DINCHU AND YIRGA ALEM (SOUTHERN SIDAMO), WHERE DROUGHT-AFFECTED INHABITANTS SAID BE DEMANDING MORE GRAIN FROM LOCAL NORWEGIAN MISSIONARIES.

3. BESIDES SHUTDOWN OF ASSAB PORT, RAILWAY AND DISRUPTION OF TRUCKING, POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES AND PARA-MEDICAL "DRESSERS" CONTINUE THEIR STRIKES. VARIOUS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC CORPORATION WORKERS, SUCH AS MAJOR PRINTING PRESS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TELEPHONE OFFICE, IHA, TOBACCO MONOPOLY, ETC., THREATENING GO ON STRIKE UNLESS THEIR DEMANDS MET. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, LABOR BOARD HAS DECIDED CELU GENERAL STRIKE IN MARCH WAS ILLEGAL. CELU SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED DECISION AS UNFAIR AND WARNED IT MAY LEAD TO "UNWANTED CONSEQUENCES."

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4. SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN ADDIS HAVE BEEN MEETING PAST FEW DAYS AND HAVE REPORTEDLY DECIDED NOT RPT NOT RETURN CLASSES THIS SEMESTER (SEE ADDIS 4373). THEY FURTHERMORE DEMANDING CANCELLATION 12TH GRADE NATIONWIDE EXAM AND REFUND FEES. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DECIDED ON APRIL 22 WITHDRAW FROM SCHOOL AND FACULTY COUNCIL SAID BE RECOMMENDING TO BOARD OF GOVS. TO CLOSE HSIU. APPEARS PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLING IN MUCH OF COUNTRY

IS NOW FINISHED FOR REMAINDER THIS SCHOOL YEAR.

5. RECENT MOSLEM DEMONSTRATION, ATTEMPTS ORGANIZE CHRISTIAN COUNTER-MARCH AND COMPLAINTS TO PM OVER MOSLEM DEMANDS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO UNEASE IN ADDIS. FEAR OF FURTHER DETERIORATION SEEMS BE SPREADING. RUMORS CONCERNING PRESSURES ON CURRENT AND PAST LEADERS RAMPANT, FOR EXAMPLE STORY OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER AKLILU'S ALLEGED ATTEMPTED SUICIDE OVER WEEKEND, AND PARLIAMENTARY ACCUSATION THAT NEW MININFO MISAPPROPRIATED FUNDS WHEN HE WAS AMB. TO SOMALIA.

6. IN FACE THESE MOUNTING TROUBLES, ENDALKACHEW, PRESUMABLY FEELING POLICE AND MILITARY BEHIND HIM AFTER LAST WEEK'S MEETINGS, ORDERED TOUGH GOVERNMENT STATEMENT BE ISSUED EVENING APRIL 23 (REF A), STATEMENT CALLED FOR END DISORDERS AND PROMISES TOUGH REACTION BY POLICE AND/OR MILITARY TO CONTROL SITUATION. IN WHAT MAY BE DIRECT CHALLENGE TO CABINET, STUDENTS MORNING APRIL 24 BEGAN DEMONSTRATING AND THROWING STONES AT CARS. IN SOME CASES POLICE RESPONDING WITH TEAR GAS AND SHOOTING. POLICE ALSO PREVENTED IHA EMPLOYEES FROM WALKING OUT.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THERE SOME INDICATIONS BACKLASH ABAINST DISORDERS AND WILDCAT STRIKES DEVELOPING, PARTICULARLY AMONG ADDIS RESIDENTS, IT DOUBTFUL GOVERNMENT'S LATEST AND TOUGHEST CALL TO DATE FOR LAW AND ORDER ABLE RAPIDLY QUELL COUNTRYSIDE DISTURBANCES. WHILE CRACKDOWN BY SECURITY FORCES MAY PREVENT DISORDERS IN LARGER URBAN AREAS, THEIR ABILITY CONTROL PROVINCIAL CENTERS OR FORCE EMPLOYEES TO WORK APPEARS LIMITED.  
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## Message Attributes

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